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NT 520 New Testament Introduction

Fredrick J. Long

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NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION
NT 520
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In the syllabus below you will find the following information:
REQUIRED TEXTS
COURSE DESCRIPTION
COURSE OBJECTIVES
CLASS FORMAT
COURSE PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS
DESCRIPTIONS OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS
EVALUATION AND GRADING SCALE
ONLINE AND COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES
CLASS SCHEDULE and READING REPORT

REQUIRED TEXTS:
1. A Bible with Old and New Testaments (NASB95, ESV, NRSV, or RSV recommended; but NIV is acceptable).
   Electronic Bible versions in Logos Bible Software are available for purchase individually (see link below), or come bundled with various packages. The advantage of having a Logos electronic version is to be able to access Scripture texts from the class readings via the “linking” capability within Logos Bible Software. The RSV in Logos is least expensive ($9.95) and is used in Asbury’s IBS classes; but in Logos it contains no marginal notes; the NASB95 ($24.95) has linking to marginal notes.
3. The Essential IVP Reference Collection. Version 2. InterVarsity, 2001, available for $102.95 at https://www.logos.com/Academic/AsburyTSKY/fall2007. This collection contains thirteen reference works plus four pocket dictionaries covering biblical studies, the study of New Testament Greek, theological terms, and apologetics and the philosophy of religion. These are listed below. Readings for the class will come from the first four of these works, although it may be beneficial to consult the others. Several of these reference works (and Bauer above) are required for other ATS classes.


COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An introduction to (1) the literature of the New Testament in its socio-historical, literary and canonical contexts; and (2) critical study of the New Testament.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course, students should have a greater understanding of
1. the centrality of Scripture and the importance of having a biblical view of hermeneutics for the ongoing life and ministry of Christ’s church;
2. the formation of the NT canon;
3. the basic and best types of reference works for the study of the NT;
4. the socio-historical backgrounds within which to understand and study the NT;
5. the content, purposes, and aims of NT books in their social-cultural and literary contexts, in order to fight the growing biblical illiteracy in the church and world;
6. the basic history of NT Interpretation, and the development of methodological perspectives and approaches that are associated with these respective eras of interpretation;
7. the critical review and assessment of the various NT study methods (text-critical, source, form, narrative, rhetorical, social, reader-response, etc.), in order to determine which approaches are most suitable and productive for faithful interpretation of the NT;
8. the value of working with the original biblical languages for performing interpretation/exegesis;
9. the identification and augmentation of the basic skill-sets and competencies for NT interpretation;
10. the “family” of basic principles of NT Interpretation (CIE, CAP, GRAMPS, GRAMMA, UNCLE, AUNT, POP, MOM, SIS, BRO, S/HE, HERS, HIS);
11. the correlation of the interpretation of NT texts into a vital biblical theology for ministry in our respective cultural contexts;
12. the high calling of following Christ and how to apply Christ’s teaching in one’s life.

CLASS FORMAT:
I will teach this course using a lecture and discussion format with some in-class interpretive work based upon methods and approaches which have been learned. This will prepare students for short interpretive assignments. Students are strongly encouraged and expected to participate in class discussion and activities by raising questions arising from their reading of the NT (e.g., difficult passages), readings related to the socio-historical background NT texts, readings concerning the methodology and hermeneutics of NT interpretation, and arising from their interpretive assignments on the NT.

COURSE PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS:
A. Attendance: The important nature of the subject matter necessitates regular attendance. A student’s grade will be reduced by 1/3 (e.g., A to A-) for each set of three classes missed, excused or unexcused. For example, 3 misses = 1/3 grade reduction; 6 misses = 2/3 reduction, etc. Attendance will be checked regularly.

B. Exemption from Assignments, Readings, Due Dates: No opportunity for make-up work or exemption from assignments will be afforded you unless you ask permission ahead of time and permission is granted. This excludes the case of an emergency. Reading and Assignments are expected on the day they are due and are indicated in separate columns in the tentative schedule below. Late assignments are generally not accepted, unless there are extenuating circumstances, since these assignments may be discussed in class.

C. Cell-phones ringers are to be turned off during class.

D. Plagiarism: The definition of to plagiarize is “to steal and pass off as one’s own the ideas or words of another” (Webster’s Third New International Dictionary s.v.). If you use a quotation or part of a quotation, or a key phrase or words, these must be put into quotations and cited there and then. Otherwise, the sentence or idea comes across as your own. Don’t succumb to the temptation. It is okay to research and use quotations from various sources (professors usually like to see thoughtful engagement with academic sources). But, use quotations appropriately and cite the source.

E. Incomplete Work: See ATS 2007-08 Online Catalog, page 31. The student must petition the Registrar and the faculty person involved for permission to receive an “I” at the end of a semester. The petition must be received before 5 pm on the last day of the term. A grade of “I” denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does not include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as "F."

F. Duplicate Work with other Classes: Papers and assignments turned in for this class must not be taken or reused from other classes. Those that do so will receive no credit.

DESCRIPTIONS OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS: As professor, I reserve the right to change, alter, add to, or remove these requirements and/or methods of assessment with proper prior notification of students.

A. Reading Report, Self-Evaluation, and Class Engagement and Participation: 10%
This aspect of your final grade consists of three components:
1. At the final exam, handing in the “Class Schedule and Reading Report” with the dates entered when you read those readings (if you did so). The dates are to be entered in the column beside the required readings which are marked with an asterisk (*). See the example on Feb 12.

2. Preparing before the final exam, but turned in at the final exam, a double-spaced, two page paper (one inch margins, Times New Roman 12 pt. font) which includes
   a. at the top, an approximate percentage of required reading you have completed before the final exam, broken down by the New Testament and the required dictionary readings;
   b. continuing on the same page, a brief one-page self-evaluation on your performance and engagement of the course material and assignments; and
   c. on a second page, reflect on what you have learned and want to continue to learn about the NT and its interpretation.

   **Grading Criteria:** thoughtfulness of self review, written within the page limit, use of proper writing style, free of typos, and fulfillment of the assignment as described.

3. My assessment of your class participation. Your participation with and engagement of the subject matter with professor and fellow students is integral for learning. Far from being a subjective grade criterion, each student’s class engagement and participation will be assessed by a combination of (a) observing the quality and quantity of participation in class, (b) the quantity of self-reported reading, and (c) the improvement of quiz and test scores and the quality on assignments over the semester.

B. **Ten Quizzes on one assigned dictionary Entry on various dates:** 30%
   Each quiz will have 6 questions (.5 points each) with one bonus question, so 3 points are possible.

C. **Three short Exegetical Assignments (5 pts. possible for each):** 15% (5 pages max. each)
      a. First, photocopy Gospel Parallel or use computer resources to general parallels; cite sources;
      b. Second, note significant differences between gospel accounts verse-by-verse in the three accounts;
      c. Third, consider any particular nuances conveyed by one Gospel account as opposed to the others;
      d. Fourth, does this raise any questions for the nature and study of the gospels?

   2. Perform an epistolary critical study of 1 Corinthians;
      a. First, determine the formal epistolary features of 1 Corinthians according to the discussion in DNTB “Letters, Greco-Roman; 2. Epistolary Conventions” and our work with the Thessalonian letters.
      b. Second, according to Demetrius’ letter types (see DNTB Epistolary Theory), there were at one point, broadly conceived, twenty-one letter types: friendly, commendatory, blaming, reproachful, consoling, censorious, admonishing, threatening, vituperative, praising, advisory, supplicatory, inquiring, responding, allegorical, accounting, accusing, apologetic, congratulatory, ironic and thankful. Which classification(s) might apply to 1 Corinthians? Briefly justify your classification(s).
      c. Third, does your epistolary analysis of 1 Corinthians help you better to understand the nature of the letter? Why and/or why not?

   3. Perform an ideological and traditions-narrative study of Rev 12:1-17;
      a. First, before you begin your research, discuss your ideological-interpretive stance towards the passage in light of what you have thought, read, or been taught.
      b. Second, using two commentaries or suitable resources listed in Bauer’s Annotated Guide, research and summarize the possible traditions behind the apocalyptic imagery and determine the likely meaning(s) of the imagery within the context of Rev 12:1-17.
      c. Third, consider the narrative (contextual) significance of the imagery; briefly consider how Rev 12:1-17 fits into a progressive “narrative” understanding of Revelation; Be sure to re-read and interact with the narrative summary of Revelation provided in DLNTD “Hermeneutics; 2.4 Narrative Approaches” and the comments in “2.6 Genre Approaches.”
      d. Fourth, in a paragraph or two, reflect on how your research and study has changed, enhanced, or brought into question your previous ideological-interpretive stance.
D. Three Tests (15 pts. possible for each): 45%
1. Exam #1: Historical Background, Biblical Citation, and Gospels Materials and Methods
2. Exam #2: Acts and Pauline Studies and Letters
3. Exam #3: Two Essay Questions, selected from two sets of three (see Below). Answers are to be drawn mainly from the Later NT Books, with some correlation across the entire NT. 
   First set of questions (you’ll be given a choice of two, and will write on one):
   a. The Word of God
      How does God speak to Humans? In what form is this communication given?
      What are the central themes of God’s Word?
      How are people to determine whether God’s communication is particular and specific to them or general and universal for all?
   b. The Kingdom of God
      What is the Kingdom of God? Is it a place, a realm, a rule, a time, or what?
      How is God’s Kingdom seen and experienced amongst human beings?
      Who announces and brings the Kingdom?
   c. The People of God
      Who are the people of God? What is their ethnic and social make up?
      How are people invited and incorporated in, and how are these made effectual?
      How are God’s people to be differentiated from other people?
      What struggles do God’s people face in the world?
   Second set of questions (you’ll be given a choice of two, and will write on one):
   d. The Ethos/Character of God
      What is central to God’s moral/ethical character?
      How has God demonstrated His character?
      Why has God so demonstrated His character in this way? To what ends?
   e. The Imitation of God
      In what ways are humans called to imitate God?
      What is involved in imitating God?
      How is the invitation to imitate God offered?
   f. The Future of God
      What kinds of events are envisioned in the future that God will bring about?
      What is God’s goal in this future for humanity?
      How do human beings prepare for this future? How will they participate in this future?

Grading Criteria for Final Exam:
A. Clarity and Style: clearly written, free of typos, grammatical mistakes and punctuation errors, well-argued;
B. Completeness: Each sub-area completed well with representation from the whole of the NT;
C. Level of Engagement: thoroughness and thoughtfulness of addressing each of the topics
D. Scriptural Citation and Support: Uses SBL Handbook Guidelines and supported statements well from Scripture.

EVALUATION AND GRADING SCALE:

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<th>EVALUATION SCALE</th>
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<td>94-100 = A “Exceptional work: surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives”</td>
<td>A. Reading Report, Self-Evaluation, and Class Engagement and Participation: 10 %</td>
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<td>92-94 = A-</td>
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<td>90-92 = B+</td>
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<td>86-90 = B “Good work: strong, significant achievement of course objectives”</td>
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<td>84-86 = B-</td>
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<td>82-84 = C+</td>
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<td>77-82 = C “Acceptable work: basic, essential achievement of course objectives”</td>
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<tr>
<td>75-77 = C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-75 = D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-73 = D “Marginal work: inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives”</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;70 = F “Unacceptable work: failure to achieve course objectives”</td>
<td>B. Ten Quizzes on one assigned dictionary entry on various dates: 30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Three Exegetical Assignments (5 pts. possible for each): 15 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Three Tests (15 pts. possible for each): =100 %</td>
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ONLINE SECTION DESCRIPTIONS AND COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES:

Class communication is accomplished with the open-source Moodle platform, accessed using a web browser (Firefox is preferred). Log into http://virtual.asburyseminary.edu and you will see this course listed to the left. The following are functions with which you should familiarize yourself:

1. The Course Information Center contains many features to be used throughout the semester:
   a) Course News and Announcements, where I will post items important for the entire class;
   b) Syllabus, where a copy of the syllabus is provided;
   c) To Professor, which is a way for you to post a message directly to me and we can discuss an issue privately;
   d) Course Questions, which is a public forum where you can publicly post any questions you have regarding the course so others may see your message and respond. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the schedule, the assignments, or anything else that may be of interest to other participants and me you should post it to the Course Questions Forum;
   e) Prayer Forum, which is a public forum where you can post prayer concerns and praises for all to see. This is a way for us to build community;
   f) Open Forum, which is a public forum where you can post anything that is not course-related for all to see. Examples include someone getting married, an upcoming birthday, discussions on topics not course-related, etc. This is a way for us to build community.

2. Modules, which are located below the Course Information Center, will contain forums where group discussions will take place, documents or other files to download or view online, and assignment links where you will post your assignments to me. Modules will be clearly labeled so you can follow along during the semester.

3. Resources, a section located on the left side, provides links to items you may want to use often in the semester.

ACCESSING INFORMATION COMMONS MATERIALS:

1. General Questions:
   a. The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs. The Information Commons hours are posted here: http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.htm

2. Materials Requests:
   a. To search the library catalog for available materials, click here: http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm
   b. Virtual Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.
   c. Virtual students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

3. Research Questions:
   a. Virtual students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

4. Online Databases:
   a. To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm and enter your 10-digit
student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0's to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXX = your student id).

**Copyright Policies:**

The copyright law of the United States (title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specific conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement. This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve violation of copyright law.

**CLASS SCHEDULE and READING REPORT:** Complete before and turn in at the Final Exam.

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC &amp; ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>ENTER DATE &amp; READ</th>
<th>*Required Readings &amp; Suggested Readings</th>
<th>ENTER DATE &amp; READ</th>
<th>*Required Readings &amp; Suggested Readings</th>
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<td>DJG <em>Canon</em> (Gospels) (7) DPL <em>Canon</em> (Paul) (6) DLNTD <em>Canon</em> (Later NT) (10) DJG <em>Witness</em> (3) DNTB <em>Dead Sea Scrolls, Gen. Intro</em> (13) DNTB <em>Pagan Sources in the NT</em> (7) DNTB <em>Septuagint/Greek OT</em> (6)</td>
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<td>Feb 19</td>
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<td><em>DJG Judaism</em> (8) <em>DJG Hellenism</em> (5) <em>DJG Revolutionary Movements</em> (9) <em>DNTB Messianism</em> (7) <em>DNTB Religions, Greco-Roman</em> (8) <em>DNTB Religion, Personal</em> (4) DJG <em>Dead Sea Scrolls</em> (9) DJG <em>Feasts</em> (5) DJG <em>Galilee</em> (1) DJG <em>Gentiles</em> (6) DNTB <em>Hasmoneans</em> (3) DNTB <em>Herodian Dynasty</em> (9) DJG <em>Herodian Dynasty</em> (8) DJG <em>Languages of Palestine</em> (10) DJG <em>Pharisees</em> (6)</td>
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<td><em>DJG Gospel (Genre)</em> (6) <em>DJG Gospel (Good News)</em> (4) <em>DJG Historical Jesus, Quests of</em> (16) <em>DJG Gospels (Historical Reliability)</em> (6) DJG <em>Q</em> (6) DJG “L” Tradition (2)</td>
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**Mark & Textual and Source Criticism**

- *The Gospel of Mark*
- *DJG Mark, Gospel of* (12)
- *DJG Textual Criticism* (3)
- *DNTB Manuscripts, Greek NT* (7)
- *DJG Synoptic Problem* (8)
- *DJG Ransom Saying* (3)

**Matthew & Tradition & Sociological Criticism**

- *The Gospel of Matthew*
- *DJG Matthew, Gospel of* (14)
- *DJG Tradition Criticism* (3)
- *DLNTD Matthean Community* (5)
- *DJG Sociological Approaches to the Gospels* (6)
- *DJG Rich and Poor* (9)

**Mar 13 TEST #1**

**Mar 18 Acts & Narrative Criticism & Archeology**

- *The Acts of the Apostles*
- *DLNTD Narrative Criticism* (5)
- *DNTB Archeology and the NT* (7)
- *DLNTD Miracles in Acts* (6)
- *DPL Athens, Paul at* (4)

DNTB *Protest and Godfearers* (11)
DPL *Revolutionary Movements* (6)
DPL *Social Setting of Mission Churches* (8)

**DLNTD Centers of Christianity** (8)
**DLNTD Mission, Early Non-Pauline** (3)
**DPL Antioch on the Orontes** (2)
**DPL Diaspora** (2)
**DPL Food Offered to Idols and Jewish Food Laws** (4)
**DPL Hellenism** (5)
**DLNTD Paul and Paulinisms in Acts** (4)
**DPL Paul in Acts and Letters** (12)
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<td>*Jew, Paul the (8)</td>
<td>*Judaizers (3)</td>
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<td>*Hermeneutics/Interpreting Paul (9)</td>
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<td>*Jesus, Sayings of (16)</td>
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<td>*Citizenship, Roman (3)</td>
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<td>*Faith (6)</td>
<td>*Covenant and New Covenant (3)</td>
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<td>*Flesh (3)</td>
<td>*Jerusalem (12)</td>
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<td>*Freedom/Liberty (3)</td>
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<td>Mar 27</td>
<td>1 and 2 Thessalonians &amp; Epistolary Criticism</td>
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<td>*Epistolary Theory (2)</td>
<td>*Imitation of Paul of Christ (3)</td>
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<td>*Eschatology (15)</td>
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<td>*Man of Lawlessness and Restraining Power (1)</td>
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<td>*Eschatology (15)</td>
<td>*Psychology (10)</td>
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| Apr 17 | Ephesians, Colossians, & Imperial Criticism | *Ephesians* and *Colossians*  
*DPL Colossians, Letter to the* (6)  
*DPL Ephesians, Letter to the* (10)  
*DNBT Civic Cults* (2)  
*DNBT Ruler Cult* (4)  
*DNBT Pax Romana* (4)  
*DPL Emperors, Roman* (3)  
*DPL Citizenship, Roman and Heavenly & Civil Authority* (3)  
*DNBT Roman Triumph* (3)  
*DPL Ephesus* (4)  
*DNBT Colossae* (1)  
*DNPL Principalities and Powers* (5)  
*DNPL Qumran and Paul* (6)  |
| Apr 22 | Pastorals & Feminist Criticism             | *1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus*  
*DPL Pastoral Letters* (8)  
*DPL Ministry* (6)  
*DJG Liberation Hermeneutics* (5)  
*DPL Man and Woman* (8)  
*DNBT Family and Household* (13)  |
| Apr 29 | TEST #2                                    |                                                                           |
| May 1  | James & 1 Peter                            | *James* and *1 Peter*  
*DNTD James, Letter of* (6)  
*DNTD 1 Peter* (9)  
*DPL James and Paul* (4)  
*DNTD Church as Israel, People of God* (15)  |
| May 6  | 2 Peter & Jude                             | *2 Peter* and *Jude*  
*DNTD 2 Peter* (4)  
*DNTD Jude* (10)  
*DNTD Pseudepigraphy* (7)  |
| May 8  | Hebrews                                    | *Hebrews*  
*DNTD Hebrews* (16)  
*DNBT Biblical Interpretation, Jewish* (6)  
*DNTD Angels, Heavenly Beings, Angel Christology* (4)  
*DNTD Exaltation, Enthronement* (5)  
*DNTD Priest, High Priest* (4)  
*DNTD Covenant, New Covenant* (5)  |
| May 13 | 1/2/3 John                                 | *1 John, 2 John, and 3 John*  
*DNTD John, Letters of* (12)  
*DNTD Anointing* (2)  
*DNTD Antichrist* (3)  |

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|        | DPL Legal System, Roman                    | (5)  
*DPL Elements/Elemental Spirits of the World* (4)  
*DPL Body of Christ* (6)  
*DPL Fullness* (2)  
*DPL Grace* (2)  
*DPL Head and Head, Christ as* (4)  
*DPL Political Systems* (4)  
*DNTD Roman Empire, Christian and the* (4)  
*DPL Hymn, Hymn Fragments, Songs, Spiritual Songs* (3)  
*DPL Caesar’s Household, Imperial Household* (1)  
*DPL Household and House Codes* (2)  
*DPL In Christ* (3)  |
|        | DPL Salvation                              | (5)  
*DPL Savior* (2)  
*DPL Apostasy, Falling Away, Perseverance* (5)  
*DPL Gnosis, Gnosticism* (3)  |
|        | DNTD Pseudepigraphy                        | (7)  
*DNTB Pseudonymity and Pseudepigraphy* (6)  
*DNTD Heaven, New Heaven* (4)  
*DNTD Parousia* (20)  |
|        | DLNTD Christianity and Judaism: Parting of the Ways | (11)  
*DLNTD OT in Hebrews* (9)  
*DLNTD Melchizedek* (2)  
*DLNTD Jerusalem, Zion, Holy City* (4)  |
|        | DLNTD Commandments                         | (3)  
*DLNTD Docetism* (4)  
*DLNTD Love* (7)  |
| May 15 | **Revelation**
| ***Ideology, Apocalyptic Traditions, and Narrative Analysis of Rev 12:1-19*** |
| | *Revelation*  
| | *DLNTD Revelation, Book of* (13)  
| | *DNTB Apocalyptic Literature* (5)  
| | *DLNTD Apocalyptic, Apocalypticism* (13)  
| | *DLNTD Babylon* (2)  
| | *DLNTD Beasts, Dragon, Sea, Conflict Motif* (2)  
| | *DLNTD Eschatology* (5)  
| | *DLNTD Millennium* (3)  
| | DJG Apocalyptic (3)  
| | DNTB Apocalypticism (12)  
| | DLNTD Emperor, Emperor Cult (5)  
| | DLNTD Hell, Abyss, Eternal Punishment (3)  
| | DLNTD OT in Revelation (6)  
| May 19 | **Final Exam**  
| | **Monday 1-3 PM**  

Again, be sure to complete this [CLASS SCHEDULE and READING REPORT](#) and hand in (pages 7-11 of this syllabus) at the Final Exam.